

1– 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method for playing back an encrypted user data stream, which has a header and a user data block, where an unencrypted start section of the user data block comprises the first part of the user data in an unencrypted form and where a further section of the user data block comprises a second part of the user data in an encrypted form, where the header comprises information which is absolutely necessary for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block and where the header also comprises information which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section of the user data block, comprising:

initially processing only the information of the header which is absolutely necessary for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block;

playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block;

processing the information of the header which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section;

decrypting the further section of the user data block using the information of the header which is processed in the step of processing; and

playing back the encrypted user data of the further section of the user data block,

wherein the step of processing the information of the header which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section is performed concurrently with the playing back of the unencrypted start section.

7– 8. (Cancelled).

9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the length of the unencrypted start section of the user data block is between 1 and 60 seconds.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the user data to be encrypted are coded and wherein the information which is needed for playing back comprises an entry specifying the type of coding/decoding method.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[1]] 6, wherein the user data are audio and/or video data.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A device for playing back an encrypted user data stream, which has a header and a user data block, where an unencrypted start section of the user data block, comprises the first part of the user data in an unencrypted form and where a further section of the user data block comprises a second part of the user data in an encrypted form, where the header comprises information which is absolutely necessary for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block and where the header also comprises information which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section of the user data block, comprising:

a unit for initially processing only the information of the header which is absolutely necessary for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block;

a unit for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block in response to the unit for processing;

a unit for processing the information of the header which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section;

a unit for decrypting the further section of the user data block using the information of the header which is processed by the unit for processing; and

a unit for playing back the encrypted user data of the further section of the user data block,

wherein the unit for processing the information of the header which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section is designed to be operated concurrently to the unit for playing back the unencrypted start section.

14 – 15. (Cancelled).

16. (Original) A device according to claim 13 which is implemented as a stereo system, hifi unit, solid state player, a playback unit with a hard disk or CD ROM, or a computer.

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 13, wherein the user data are audio and/or video data.

18. (Cancelled).